

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace the pending claims with the correspondingly numbered claims below. Claims amended herein are noted by the text in parentheses.

Cancel claims 2 and 11-19.

1. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule other than a naturally occurring chromosome comprising a sequence encoding the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

3. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to Claim [2] 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:7.

4. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising at least 100 contiguous nucleotides of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

5. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid consisting of at least 100 contiguous nucleotides of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

6. (amended) An isolated nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions of 50°C or higher and 0.1XSSC (15 mM NaCl/0.15 mM Na citrate) to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were pending. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. Claims 2 and 11-19 have been canceled without prejudice to refiling of the original scope. No new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections.

The Office Action states that the first line of the specification should be amended to reflect the relationship between the instant application and the priority application. Applicants respectfully draw the attention of the Examiner to the Application Data Sheet, filed with the application on May 11, 2001. As stated in the M.P.E.P. 601.05, in the ADS:

(5) *Domestic priority information*. This information includes the application number, the filing date, the status (including patent number if available), and relationship of each application for which a benefit is claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119(e), 120, 121, or 365(c). Providing this information in the